

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-40 are pending, in which claims 1, 9, 17, 25, and 33 are currently amended. The amendment merely addresses potential grammatical and antecedent basis issues (e.g. lack of an article before “number” in “tracking number of...”). Accordingly, entry after final is appropriate because no issues requiring further search or consideration are raised and no new matter is introduced.

The final Office Action mailed February 15, 2005 rejected claims 1, 7-9, 15-17, 23-25, 31-33, and 39-40 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 based on *Cox A1* (*Cox et al.*, US 2002/0115431 A1) in view of the newly-cited *Cox B1* (*Cox et al.*, US 6,456,709 B1), claims 2-4, 10-12, 18-20, 26-27, and 34-36 over *Cox A1* and *Cox B1* further in view of *Shah et al.* (US 6,212,506), claims 5-6, 13-14, 21-22, 29-30, and 37-38 over *Cox A1* and *Cox B1* further in view of *Weinman, Jr.* (US 6,658,455).

This rejection is respectfully traversed because neither *Cox A1* nor *Cox B1* teach or suggest the features of the claims. For example, independent claim 1 recites:

1. A method of charging for directory assistance services that are provided over a packet switched network, the method comprising:  
transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information;  
tracking a number of selected directory listings that are transmitted to the client access device; and  
**preparing billing information based upon the number of the selected directory listings.**

Thus, claim 1 provides that billing information is prepared “based upon the number of the selected directory listings.” This feature is not shown in either *Cox A1* or *Cox B1*.

Rather, *Cox A1* is directed to a “telecommunication technique for providing information assistance services” (Title). Paragraphs 41-47 of the *Cox A1* application discuss three different

ways it discloses in which a cellular-phone originated call to a directory assistance service is billed. First, the total “air time” in which the caller uses the cellular carrier’s cellular radio system to carry a call may be charged (¶ 42). Second, a per-call charge to the directory assistance service may be levied, based on the “number of calls received from the carrier in a particular time period” (¶ 43). Third, a toll charge may be imposed if the directory assistance operator originates a connection over a toll route (¶ 44), either through use of toll tickets (¶ 45) or the digits dialed at the director assistance’s PBX (¶ 46). Paragraph 47 then states that responsibility for the billing is placed on the cellular carrier, not on the directory assistance service.

None of the three different ways of billing for directory assistance service disclosed in *Cox A1*, however, is “based upon the number of the selected directory listings,” as recited in claim 1. It is not in the least surprising that *Cox A1* should fail to disclose the particular billing arrangement recited in claim 1, since the Office Action quite correctly recognized that “Cox(1) fails to teach transmitting information associated with one or more directory listings to a client access device over the packet switched network in response to a query initiated by a customer, wherein the customer selects one or more of the directory listings based on the information” (pp. 2-3).

None of the remaining secondary references—*Cox B1*, *Shaw et al.*, and *Weinman, Jr.*—teach or otherwise suggest this feature.

Independent claims 9, 17, 25, and 33 also recite the feature of “preparing billing information based upon the number of the selected directory listings” or “to prepare billing information based upon the number of the selected directory listings,” and are allowable for at least the same reasons as that of independent claim 1.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejections of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved

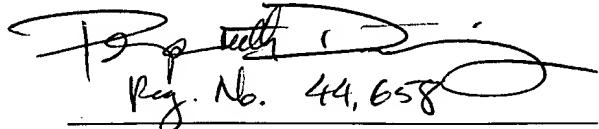
issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at 703-425-8516 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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4/14/05

Date

  
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